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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: B. Lujan DATE TYPED: 3/19/03 HB 628/aSRC

SHORT TITLE: Major and Minor Party Qualifications SB _____

ANALYST: Collard

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
			(\$300.0)	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From
Secretary of State

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SRC Amendment

The Senate Rules Committee amendment to House Bill 628 reduces the percentage for major party status from 10 percent of the total registered voters in the state to four percent. It should be noted this still only allows two major political parties in the state of New Mexico.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 628 changes the Election Code to provide major party status to political parties with at least 10 percent of the total registered voters in the state. It also changes the Election Code to provide minor party status to political parties with less than 10 percent of the total registered voters in the state.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill has no appropriation; however, the Secretary of State indicates one of the state's current major parties does not have 10 percent of the total registered voters in the state. Thus, under this bill, the state will save \$300.0 annually due to the deletion of a major party primary election.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State anticipates substantial positive impact if Bureau of Elections does not have administrative duties associated with a major party primary for a party with few members.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Secretary of State indicates a substantial cost savings for the counties as the counties pay approximately 40 percent of the materials for major party primary elections, including absentee ballots, emergency paper ballots, tally sheets, canvass sheets and associated supplies.

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